WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

30. A pharmaceutical composition comprising an analgesic combination consisting essentially of nabumetone and oxycodone.

31. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 30, wherein the oxycodone would be sub-therapeutic if administered without the nabumetone.

32. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 30, wherein the oxycodone and nabumetone are administered orally, via implant, parenterally, sublingually, rectally, topically, or via inhalation.

33. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 30, which is selected from the group consisting of a tablet; a multiparticulate formulation for oral administration; a solution, a suspension or elixir for oral administration; an injectable formulation; an implantable device; a topical preparation; a suppository; a buccal tablet; and an inhalation formulation.

34. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 30, which is a solid oral dosage form selected from the group consisting of a tablet and a capsule.

35. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 30, wherein the ratio of oxycodone to nabumetone is from about 0.0001:1 to about 1:1.

36. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 30, wherein the nabumetone synergistically potentiates the effect of the oxycodone but the oxycodone does not synergistically potentiate the effect of the nabumetone.

37. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 34, wherein the oral solid dosage form includes a sustained release carrier which causes the sustained release of the nabumetone, the oxycodone, or both the oxycodone and the nabumetone when the dosage form contacts gastrointestinal fluid.

38. A method of effectively treating pain in humans or other mammals, comprising administering to a patient an analgesic combination consisting essentially of nabumetone and oxycodone such that the dosing interval of the nabumetone overlaps with the dosing interval of the oxycodone.

39. The method of claim 38, wherein the nabumetone and the oxycodone are administered orally.

40. The method of claim 38, wherein the nabumetone and the oxycodone are administered in a single oral dosage form.

41. The method of claim 38, wherein the oxycodone would be sub-therapeutic if administered without the nabumetone.

42. The method of claim 38, wherein the nabumetone is administered before, simultaneously with, or after administration of the oxycodone, such that the dosing interval of the nabumetone overlaps with the dosing interval of the oxycodone.

43. A method of reducing the oxycodone required to treat a patient affected with pain, comprising co-administering said oxycodone with said nabumetone to augment the analgesia attributable to said oxycodone during at least a portion of the dosage interval of said oxycodone.

44. A method of reducing the amount of nabumetone required to treat a patient affected with pain comprising co-administering said nabumetone with an effective amount of oxycodone, to augment the analgesia attributable to said nabumetone during at least a portion of the dosage interval of said nabumetone.

45. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein the oxycodone is present in an amount from about 2.5 mg to about 800 mg.

46. The method of claim 38, wherein the oxycodone is present in an amount from about 2.5 mg to about 800 mg.

47. The method of claim 38, wherein the ratio of oxycodone to nabumetone is from about 0.0001:1 to about 1:1.